United Nations CRC/C/SR.2293

Convention on the Rights of the Child

Distr.: General
8 June 2018

Original: English

Committee on the Rights of the Child
Seventy-eighth session

Summary record of the 2293rd meeting
Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Tuesday, 22 May 2018, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Ms. Winter

Contents

Consideration of reports of States parties (*continued*)

Initial report of the Russian Federation on the implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography

This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent within one week of the date of the present record to the Documents Management Section (DMS-DCM@un.org).

Any corrected records of the public meetings of the Committee at this session will be reissued for technical reasons after the end of the session.

GE.18-08256 (E) 070618 080618

1808256

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

Consideration of reports of States parties (*continued*)

Initial report of the Russian Federation on the implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (CRC/C/OPSC/RUS/1; CRC/C/OPSC/RUS/Q/1 and CRC/C/OPSC/RUS/Q/1/Add.1)

1. *At the invitation of the Chair, the delegation of the Russian Federation took places at the Committee table.*

2. **Mr. Zubov** (Russian Federation), introducing his country's report (CRC/C/OPSC/RUS/1), said that, since the submission of the report in 2015, significant improvements had been made not only to the legislation to protect children, but also to its implementation, while international cooperation in that area had been strengthened. Those efforts had been underpinned by various strategic documents, including the national security strategy and framework policies on long-term socioeconomic development, family and youth, and the prevention of child neglect and juvenile delinquency. The period 2018–2027 had been designated the national Decade of Childhood, and a plan of action for the Decade was being developed. The Presidential Commissioner (Ombudsman) for Children's Rights had a key coordinating role to play in that regard. The Optional Protocol was implemented through a range of federal and regional programmes, which were constantly increasing in number, along with the funding and resources for their implementation. A fund for children in need had been set up, pursuant to a decree of the President.

3. The criminal law had been strengthened to protect children against all types of abuse, in particular violence and sexual abuse. Such crimes were punishable by extended periods of imprisonment. A special parliamentary working group had been set up to develop measures to tackle sexual offences against children online. The use of the Internet for child pornography was prohibited by law. A comprehensive register of prohibited websites had been drawn up. The number of websites included in the register had increased tenfold from 2013 to 2017. Law enforcement authorities had been provided with the necessary technical and legal means to deal with sexual misconduct committed via the Internet or social media. Since 2011, a special police operation, under the code name "Sornyak" (Pest), had been under way to identify international peering networks that exchanged pornographic material. The operation had resulted in 94 criminal cases between 2015 and 2017 alone.

4. In 2017, more than 13,000 criminal cases had been brought for offences against the sexual inviolability of minors. The number of criminal cases brought for recruitment of minors to engage in prostitution, sexual intercourse with minors under the age of 16 and production and circulation of child pornography had also increased, owing to active efforts by law enforcement authorities to clamp down on such offences and to address underreporting. There was no evidence of the systematic sale of children, child prostitution or child pornography in the Russian Federation and there had been no registered cases of child slave labour. While there might have been a handful of attempts at the sale of children, usually newborns, those cases had involved migrants and had occurred in the context of adoption. The requisite measures had been taken by the law enforcement authorities and the cases had been widely reported in the media. Similarly, child prostitution was rare, although it had not been possible to entirely stamp out online advertising of sexual services involving minors. Adolescents aged 16 to 18 years who engaged in prostitution were subject to administrative liability, while their clients incurred criminal liability. Their parents could be held administratively or criminally liable, depending on the circumstances. Sex tourism was not widespread in the Russian Federation.

5. The media had recently drawn attention to cases of sexual abuse or sexual violence against minors, committed by either parents or other minors. The latter cases often involved the use by perpetrators of mobile telephones and the Internet to blackmail victims. In that regard, police monitoring of the Internet had been particularly effective. The introduction of child psychologists in preschool and school settings and the setting up of a 24-hour national children's telephone hotline had also produced positive results, as had the network of free rehabilitation centres for minors and other crisis centres and shelters for victims established

under the family social services system. According to some estimates, however, more than 80 per cent of cases of sexual violence against children remained unreported to the law enforcement authorities, owing to a lack of trust within families that discouraged children from telling their parents about cases of abuse. Paedophilia tended to affect the most vulnerable children, those who did not have social or family support.

6. It was important for the public to see law enforcement efforts to defend the rights and interests of children in a positive light. There was concern in society, however, about the use of the Internet and other media to aggressively promote ideas that conflicted with traditional Russian values, including with regard to marriage and the family; to encourage liberal sexual behaviour and even normalize prostitution; and to glorify violence, cruelty and the cult of money. Society expected young people to be protected from such influences. The law enforcement authorities were working to that end, in close cooperation with the media and the public.

7. The Government was doing its utmost to strengthen international cooperation to address the sale and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography, in particular through the United Nations, as well as through the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the international police organizations. Discussions on such issues were also held frequently in the context of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the Collective Security Treaty Organization and the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation. A programme of cooperation between the CIS countries had resulted in the disbanding of seven organized criminal groups in 2017 alone, following which 143 criminals had been brought to justice. Agreements on mutual legal assistance and bilateral cooperation agreements had been concluded with a number of countries.

8. **Mr. Kotrane** (Country Rapporteur) said that, while the State party's provision of data on offences against children was welcome, the lack of disaggregation by nationality, ethnic origin, socioeconomic status, disability and geographic location was worrying. He wondered whether any specific measures were foreseen to enhance the data-collection system and ensure that comprehensive information was available on all offences under the Optional Protocol. The focus should be on gathering information about children at specific risk, such as migrant and unaccompanied children.

9. The lack of a comprehensive programme of action to address the issues covered in the Optional Protocol was regrettable. Information had been provided about various authorities at the federal and regional levels that were responsible for the implementation of the Protocol. The Committee was concerned, however, that there appeared to be no central coordination body and that commissioners for children's rights at all levels were not sufficiently independent. There were, moreover, no data on any complaints that might have been submitted by children to the commissioners.

10. Although measures were being taken to raise awareness of the Optional Protocol as part of general human rights education, the Committee wished to know whether the State party intended to incorporate specific information on the Protocol into school curricula. It would also like to receive further information on the training provided for professionals — other than teachers — working with children, including judges, law enforcement officers, procurators, social workers and immigration officials, to ensure that they were fully aware of the Optional Protocol.

11. He asked what specific resources were allocated to activities to implement the Optional Protocol and what was being done to evaluate their impact and effectiveness and to ensure equity and transparency in resource allocation.

12. While the State party had an impressive legislative base and most offences under articles 2 and 3 of the Optional Protocol were covered in the Criminal Code, the definition of "sale of children" did not seem to encompass the forced labour or illegal adoption of a child. The State party's legislation did not, moreover, define child prostitution, nor did it criminalize the possession of pornographic material depicting children. He wondered if the State party intended to revise its criminal law to take account of those aspects. He also wished to know if it was true that criminal cases brought in connection with offences under the Optional Protocol could be dropped if the victim retracted his or her complaint and that

the statute of limitations prohibited children who were victims of a criminal offence from filing a complaint once they reached the age of majority.

13. He asked what the ramifications would be of a violation of the Optional Protocol by legal entities that were subject only to administrative and not criminal liability. He noted with regret that the State party's extraterritorial jurisdiction over offences under the Optional Protocol was subject to the principle of dual criminality. Lastly, he asked whether the Optional Protocol could serve as a legal basis for extradition.

14. **Mr. Nelson** (Country Rapporteur) asked whether the delegation could provide an English translation of its opening address. He said that, while the State party had many laws to give effect to the Optional Protocol, no specific information on the enforcement of those laws had been forthcoming. It would be helpful to know, for example, how many criminal cases had been instituted for offences under the Optional Protocol and what the outcomes of those cases had been.

15. The Committee had been informed that sex tourism remained prevalent in the State party and that an increasing number of offenders were nationals of the Russian Federation. It therefore wished to know what measures were being taken to address that phenomenon and, in particular, whether any awareness-raising campaigns were being conducted in the travel and tourism sectors on the harmful effects of sex tourism. Was there a code of conduct for travel agents and hotel staff, and how many sex tourism cases had been brought before the courts?

16. By the State party's own admission, the number of websites containing child pornography had increased twelvefold in the four years preceding the submission of its report. While the establishment of the register of websites containing pornographic material was a positive initiative, he wondered whether there was a national strategy in place to target online child exploitation specifically, or a dedicated body. He also wished to know whether the State party had any education programmes on online safety, to ensure that children were aware of the potential dangers of participating in online activities. Was there a system for reporting online offenders and what other measures were taken, aside from prosecution, to tackle online crime?

17. A well-developed system was in place for the protection of child victims of crime. Clarification would nevertheless be appreciated regarding paragraph 265 of the State party's report, which stated that, under article 45 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the legal representative of a victim who was a minor could be excluded from participation in the criminal case by order of the person responsible for conducting the initial inquiry, the investigator, the judge or the court if the representative's conduct was deemed detrimental to the interests of the minor. It was difficult to understand what the purpose of that provision might be.

18. The Committee was concerned that children involved in prostitution were dealt with under the Code of Administrative Offences, rather than being treated as victims. He asked whether the State party would amend its legislation in that regard and what measures it would take to ensure that children forced into prostitution received the psychological, social and practical support they needed with a view to being reunited with their families. He also wished to know whether specialized counselling and support were provided at shelters for child victims of crime, whether shelter staff were specially trained and whether funding for shelters was being increased in the light of reports that they were underresourced and insufficient in number.

The meeting was suspended at 10.50 a.m. and resumed at 11.15 a.m.

19. **Mr. Zubov** (Russian Federation) said that a translation of his opening remarks would be provided. The modalities for statistical reporting were set out in law. Overall responsibility for the collection and analysis of statistical data on legal cases lay with the Office of the Procurator General. Every effort was made to optimize the use of resources, streamline data collection and reduce the amount of paperwork. A selective approach was therefore taken to ensure that only the requisite data were gathered to inform decisions. Published statistics must not contain any information that could fuel racial hatred or social antagonism and were therefore not disaggregated by race, ethnicity or nationality. A wider

range of indicators had been established with regard to victims of crime, however, which would result in more detailed information being available in the future.

20. **Ms. Loseva** (Russian Federation) said that statistics on legal cases were also gathered by the legal department of the Supreme Court, which recorded the number of cases heard, the number of convictions, the articles of the Criminal Code under which convictions were handed down and the demographic characteristics of complainants and defendants, including age, sex and education. The low percentage of repeat offenders among those convicted of sexual offences against children demonstrated the effectiveness of the measures taken to address such behaviour. A wealth of data was provided in the State party's replies to the list of issues (CRC/C/OPSC/RUS/Q/1/Add.1).

21. **Mr. Zubov** (Russian Federation) said that there were no specific problems with regard to sexual violence against migrant children in the Russian Federation. Russian children and migrant children were treated equally, and specific data on migrant children were therefore not gathered. Sex tourism was not widespread in the Russian Federation. Any isolated cases that were uncovered would be dealt with under the legislation on combating organized crime and perpetrators would face harsh penalties.

22. **Ms. Kazakova** (Russian Federation) said that the Ministry of Internal Affairs kept statistics on all those entering the territory of the Russian Federation, including migrant children and refugees. In 2017, more than 17 million foreigners had entered the country, 1.6 million of whom had been children. There were some 126,000 refugees in the territory of the Russian Federation, including 33,000 children. Information on nationality was used for integration purposes.

23. **Mr. Zubov** (Russian Federation) said that the Government's Commission on Minors' Affairs acted as the central coordination body for the implementation of the Optional Protocol. The department for State policy on the protection of children's rights, within the Ministry of Education and Science, also played a role in that regard.

24. **Mr. Kotrane** asked what was understood by the term "children" in the State party's statistics on offences against children. Did it mean anyone below 18 years of age? He was concerned that the lack of differentiation in treatment between migrants and other children might mean that a particularly vulnerable population was not receiving the support it required. Migrant children were easy targets for criminal groups and should therefore be afforded particular protection.

25. **Mr. Zubov** (Russian Federation) said that, in the Russian Federation, migrants tended to come from other post-Soviet countries, rather than arriving from conflict-affected areas as did those in Europe. Migrants were not generally involved in criminal activity, nor were they particularly affected by exploitation or other violations of their rights. Every effort was made to avoid distinctions between Russian citizens and migrants in public perceptions, and accordingly no distinction was made between those groups in published statistics. A special department had been established under the aegis of the Ministry of Internal Affairs with responsibility for deepening the technical analysis of Internet use and studying young people's online communication habits.

26. **Mr. Silyanov** (Russian Federation) said that an enormous amount of legislation was in place to ensure the protection of the rights of minors, including some 120 federal laws. The Commission on Minors' Affairs had been established pursuant to the legislation on preventing child neglect and juvenile delinquency, along with 85 commissions at the regional level and some 3,000 at the municipal level. The Commission's decisions were binding on all those working to protect children and their rights.

27. **Mr. Zubov** (Russian Federation) said, with regard to training on the Optional Protocol for persons employed in the judicial system, that, while there were no specialist programmes on the Convention or the Optional Protocols thereto, training for the judiciary in the Russian Federation was exemplary and included examinations on the details of amendments to national law, including those incorporating provisions of international instruments.

28. Regarding rehabilitation and protection for children who had been victims of violence or exploitation, the number of certified child psychologists had increased. There

were around 200 State-run shelters for victims, which in such a large country was indeed a small number. That said, civil society organizations had also established safe houses for victims and were able to apply for State funding and grants to expand their projects. A telephone helpline run by a non-governmental organization had been set up. While more remained to be done to protect and rehabilitate child victims of crime, measures were ongoing and there was a good understanding of the seriousness of the issue.

29. It was indeed possible that, in legal proceedings, a young person's representative might not necessarily work in his or her interests. The Government therefore had no plans to amend or repeal article 45 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. A criminal case might be dropped if the victim withdrew his or her complaint in the event that the case rested solely on the victim's testimony; such situations were not frequent, however. The victim of a sexual assault could marry the perpetrator but, although the courts might take the marriage into account, the criminal investigation would continue.

30. Possession of pornography, including pornography depicting minors, was punishable under article 242 of the Criminal Code, on the unlawful production and distribution of pornographic material or articles. The terminology used in that article and other relevant legislation was perhaps different from that used in the Optional Protocol and other international instruments, but research had shown that the laws of the Russian Federation were broadly compatible with international law. Offences under the Optional Protocol were offences in the Russian Federation, even though the provisions of the Protocol were not always directly reflected in the country's laws. The sale of a child disguised as an adoption, for example, was a crime.

31. **Mr. Kotrane** said that the differences between the State party's laws and the provisions of the Optional Protocol seemed not to be terminological alone. There also seemed to be differences in the way that offences were categorized. In that connection, it would be interesting to know, for example, whether the forced labour of a child would constitute the sale of a child or whether it was merely a violation of labour laws.

32. **Mr. Nelson** asked under what laws the sale of a child disguised as an adoption was criminalized. He also wished to know whether there were extensive background checks of prospective adoptive parents and whether the State party had any plans to ratify the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Intercountry Adoption.

33. **Mr. Zubov** (Russian Federation) said that background checks were standard.

34. **Mr. Silyanov** (Russian Federation) said that the laws on adoption had undergone considerable changes in the past four years. Under the Family Code, only the courts could authorize adoptions. International adoptions were possible when adoptive parents could not be found in the Russian Federation. In 2017, 380 children under the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation had been adopted by persons living abroad. Adoption agreements had been entered into with France, Italy and Spain. An agreement with Israel would be signed shortly, and preparations were being made for the conclusion of agreements with Malta and New Zealand.

35. **Mr. Zubov** (Russian Federation) said that any form of trafficking in or sale of human beings was punishable under article 127 of the Criminal Code. The use of child slave labourers was an aggravating circumstance that led to stiffer penalties for violations of the general prohibition on slave labour. In the Russian Federation, however, children were not forced to work in factories or on farms. Children were occasionally forced into prostitution or other such activities, including by their families, but as the people of the country were strongly opposed to such crimes, any families that enslaved their children would surely be reported by their neighbours, and the Criminal Code made it possible to punish the perpetrators of those crimes quite harshly.

36. If a Russian abroad committed an act that constituted a violation of the laws of the Russian Federation, he or she could be returned to the country to answer for his or her actions in court. However, punishment might be limited to the punishment imposed on the Russian in the foreign jurisdiction.

37. Legal persons could not be held criminally liable in the Russian Federation. Legal persons were, however, subject to administrative penalties. The number of acts for which

legal persons could be penalized was virtually unlimited, and the penalties could be severe enough to force the dissolution of the entity concerned. The officers of a corporation or other legal person were subject to prosecution for any criminal acts they committed but not simply for their status as officers of the entity in question.

38. The ties of the Office of the Presidential Commissioner for Children's Rights to the Office of the President ensured that it had a sufficient budget. The Commissioner's Office awarded grants to civil society organizations and received approximately 80,000 complaints from children or their legal representatives each year. The Office did not receive complaints of sexual abuse, however. Such complaints were made and investigated at the local level.

39. **The Chair** said that she wished to know how surrogacy was regulated in the State party and what efforts were made to combat child marriage in the North Caucasus, particularly in Chechnya, where the payment of a bride price for a girl was not uncommon.

40. **Mr. Kotrane** said that the State party's authorities should keep in mind that, although trafficking in children, punishable under the Criminal Code, and the sale of children were similar, they were not exactly the same. Trafficking in children, which was addressed in the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, entailed cross-border movements.

41. **Mr. Cardona Llorens** said that he wished to know what measures had been put in place to prevent the rise in sex tourism and child prostitution that invariably accompanied such large-scale sporting events as the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup, which the State party was about to host.

42. **Ms. Aho Assouma** said that she would welcome clarification of the difference between the 200 children's shelters operating in the State party and the children's dormitories that had apparently housed tens of thousands of children as recently as 2009. She wondered whether an oversight mechanism had been put in place to ensure that children in dormitories or shelters were not subjected to sexual abuse. She also wondered what steps were taken to ensure that all births were registered, particularly in the farthest-flung areas of the country.

43. **Ms. Sandberg** asked how the authorities could protect asylum-seeking and refugee children if they did not take steps to identify them. She also asked what efforts were made to ensure that such children had access to education even if they were still awaiting residence permits.

44. **Mr. Zubov** (Russian Federation) said that the situation with regard to migration in the Russian Federation was not at all like the European migrant crisis of recent years. Refugees in the Russian Federation did not live in tents, and child migrants were entitled to education and health care on an equal basis with others. It was true that refugees had streamed in from south-eastern Ukraine during the period of active hostilities there, but many had been taken in by relatives. Those refugees were offered citizenship under a special decree.

45. Although prostitution, including child prostitution, had been widespread and visible in the Russian Federation a decade earlier, it had since been driven underground. There were occasional cases of child prostitution, but it was not at all systematic. Any cases that came to the attention of the authorities were dealt with appropriately. Prostitution involving child migrants was not an acute problem.

46. Surrogacy arrangements were popular in the Russian Federation. There had been a few scandals, none of which had involved the sale of a child, but they had been resolved in the country's civil courts.

47. **Ms. Baybarina** (Russian Federation) said that surrogacy was regulated by various pieces of legislation, including the Family Code. Only gestational surrogacy, where the surrogate mother was genetically unrelated to the baby, was permitted.

48. **The Chair** asked whether the Government had adopted criminal legislation to prevent surrogacy practices that amounted to the sale of children.

49. **Mr. Zubov** (Russian Federation) said that surrogate mothers who committed criminal offences such as extortion were liable to prosecution under the Criminal Code. Cases in which the surrogate mother wished to keep the baby would, in theory, be dealt with in civil court; however, no such cases had ever arisen. Although the Family Code established that the minimum age for marriage was 18 years, exceptions were permitted on various grounds in many constituent entities of the Russian Federation.

50. **The Chair** said that the Committee was particularly concerned about reports that, in Chechnya, young girls were given as brides in exchange for a sum of money.

51. **Mr. Zubov** (Russian Federation) said that marriage practices were dictated by religion and custom. The payment of a bride price was traditional in religions such as Islam.

52. Measures would be taken to maintain public order and combat prostitution during the 2018 FIFA World Cup. There would thus be little opportunity for prostitutes or their clients to exploit the event, and he would not expect to see any cases of child prostitution.

53. His Government would welcome constructive proposals from the Committee as to how national legislation could be aligned with the Optional Protocol. Lastly, birth registration in remote areas was not a problem; the procedure was managed by the local authorities.

54. **Ms. Aho Assouma** said that her questions regarding dormitories and shelters for children had not yet been answered.

55. **Mr. Silyanov** (Russian Federation) said that social rehabilitation centres, which were managed by the social protection authorities, housed children for a maximum of six months. Children in those centres were supervised by adults at all times. There were also non-residential psychological support centres, which were staffed by psychologists and managed jointly by the education authorities and the social protection authorities. A plan for the development of psychological support services had been drawn up in December 2017.

56. **Ms. Baybarina** (Russian Federation) said that the Government was preparing a comprehensive plan for the Decade of Childhood that included a wide range of measures to promote children's rights.

57. **Mr. Cardona Llorens**, insisting that child prostitution was a problem at all major sports events, said that he would like to know whether the Government had adopted a specific policy for the prevention of child prostitution at the 2018 FIFA World Cup. With regard to surrogacy, it was still not clear what conditions a surrogate mother must fulfil, how much money she could be paid and whether she could refuse to hand over the child.

58. **Ms. Baybarina** (Russian Federation) said that the law did not provide for the payment of a specific sum to the surrogate mother. Under the agreement signed between the parties, a payment might be made to the surrogate mother to improve her living conditions and to ensure that her needs were met. Under the Family Code, the biological parents were not considered the lawful parents of the child until the surrogate mother had given her consent.

59. **Mr. Zubov** (Russian Federation) said that, in some circumstances, the biological parents covered the costs of the entire surrogacy procedure. If the surrogate mother wished to keep the child, the biological parents could seek compensation through civil proceedings.

60. The Government was preparing a plan for the maintenance of public order during the 2018 FIFA World Cup, which included measures to protect spectators from antisocial behaviour such as prostitution. Child prostitution was of course taken into account in efforts to combat prostitution, but it was not a specific problem in the Russian Federation.

61. **Mr. Nelson** said that he would like to know what steps were being taken ahead of the 2018 FIFA World Cup to tackle the problem of child begging, especially the trafficking and exploitation of children with disabilities for begging purposes.

62. **Mr. Zubov** (Russian Federation) said that child begging was very rare in the Russian Federation and was dealt with immediately by the police when it occurred. Adults

who involved children in antisocial activities were liable to prosecution under the Criminal Code.

63. **Ms. Aldoseri**, drawing attention to the in-depth global study on children deprived of liberty that was currently being conducted, said that it would be very useful for the State party to complete the questionnaire that had recently been sent out by the independent expert who was leading the study.

64. **Mr. Kotrane**, thanking the delegation for engaging in a fruitful dialogue, said that, if the Committee's questions had seemed not to reflect the current situation in the Russian Federation, that was because the Committee's main aim was to ensure that preventive measures were taken by all States parties to safeguard against potential problems. Although many relevant policies had been adopted by the Russian Federation, there was still work to be done. He hoped that the authorities would address the shortcomings that had been identified during the dialogue.

65. **Mr. Zubov** (Russian Federation) said that he wished to thank the Committee for an interesting, direct and substantive dialogue. He hoped that the Committee would remain objective in its assessment and recommendations. His Government would continue its efforts to protect the rights of children, particularly in the face of threats posed by modern technology and the Internet. It stood ready to work with other countries on the development of international standards in that area, which, like all such standards, must take account of local traditions and cultures and respect national sovereignty. It would review the Committee's recommendations carefully and use them in its work. The observation regarding the questionnaire relating to the in-depth global study on children deprived of liberty would be transmitted to the relevant authorities. Lastly, his country had prepared thoroughly for the 2018 FIFA World Cup, in order to provide excellent facilities and ensure a high level of security; the problems mentioned by the Committee were unlikely to arise.

66. **The Chair** said that the Committee was a treaty body not a court: its aim was not to pass judgment but to assist the State party. She hoped that the Government would provide a copy of its child protection strategies, so that they could be shared with other States parties as an example of good practice.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.